

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

Page 36, after line 9, insert the following new section:

SEC. 18. MINORITY RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT.

It is the sense of the Congress that the Department should increase its efforts to recruit and employ qualified minorities for carrying out the research and development functions of the Department.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would like to particularly thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), and thank the chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), for allowing the dialogue on this amendment.

Let me emphasize that I am gratified that there has been some improvement because of the work of our Committee on Science on the idea of recruiting and employing qualified minorities, for carrying out the research and development functions of the Department of Energy.

We have spoken, as we move into the 21st century, of the importance of including and enforcing, or in emphasizing, diversity in our math and science technical and research areas. This amendment would ask or indicate that it was a sense of Congress that the Department of Energy would increase its efforts to recruit and employ qualified minorities for carrying out the research and development.

I would like to note in a visit that I had this past recess to Los Alamos National Laboratory, in reviewing the security issues I also asked questions about its diversity. Let me applaud them for the percentages of Hispanics that they have working in a number of their programs, but on the other hand they had very low numbers of American Indians, Asian Americans and African Americans.

If we are to move into the 21st century, it is crucial that in areas that produce income and research and advancement in science that it has a well-diversified population of researchers from American Indians, from African Americans, from Asians and Hispanics.

I could go on about the importance of this issue, but I would ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment to emphasize diversity in research, one of the cutting stones of the 21st century, and the work of the 21st century, which is science and technology.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to support the gentlewoman's amendment and hope that it will be promptly voted upon, unanimously.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the chairman for his support.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, we strongly support the amendment and urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank both of my colleagues for their support.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any further amendments?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCHUGH), having resumed the chair, Mr. SUNUNU, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1655) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the civilian energy and scientific research, development, and demonstration of energy technology programs, projects, and activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 289, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute adopted by the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their

remarks on H.R. 1655, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2490, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 291 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 291

Resolved, that upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2490) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During the consideration of this resolution, all time is yielded for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed rule before the House today provides for consideration of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2490, the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2000. The proposed rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule also provides that the conference report will be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation, which makes the appropriations for the Treasury Department, United States Postal Service, the executive office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, is important legislation. A large portion of the activities funded under this bill are devoted to the salaries and expenses of approximately 163,000 employees who are responsible for administering programs such as drug interdiction, collection of revenues, presidential protection, violent crime reduction, and Federal financial management. Through a judicious bipartisan process of hearings and testimony, the Committee on Appropriations arrived at the funding levels contained within this legislation. The funding levels are consistent with